

STATE OF IOWA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
UTILITIES BOARD

IN RE: MIDAMERICAN ENERGY COMPANY	DOCKET NOS. RPU-2013-0003 RPU-2014-0002 RPU-2015-0002
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**ORDER GRANTING REQUESTS FOR CONFIDENTIAL TREATMENT
FILED MARCH 1 AND SEPTEMBER 1, 2016**

(Issued December 7, 2016)

On March 1 and September 1, 2016, MidAmerican Energy Company (MidAmerican) filed with the Utilities Board (Board) applications for confidential treatment of certain information contained in MidAmerican's semi-annual status updates regarding its Wind VII, VIII, IX, and X projects. The information for which confidential treatment is sought includes certain cost information for the projects. MidAmerican supported the requests for confidentiality with affidavits by a corporate officer. The material for which confidentiality was requested was filed separately and marked confidential. MidAmerican cited Iowa Code §§ 22.7(3) and 22.7(6) (2015) as authority for confidential treatment of the data.

MidAmerican claims the information is a report to a governmental agency that, if released, would give advantage to competitors and serve no public purpose and, therefore, should be held confidential pursuant to Iowa Code § 22.7(6). MidAmerican said the release of the information would harm its ability to obtain competitively priced power in the wholesale market and hurt its negotiating leverage for future wind projects, to the detriment of MidAmerican's retail customers.

The information in question qualifies as a report to a government agency. Based on the affidavit submitted by MidAmerican, release of such information serves no public purpose. Therefore, the Board will hold the information confidential pursuant to Iowa Code § 22.7(6).

The filed information may also be confidential as a trade secret pursuant to Iowa Code §§ 22.7(3) and 550.2(4). However, because the Board finds the information should be held confidential under Iowa Code § 22.7(6), the Board does not reach the question of whether the information is a trade secret or a communication not required by law.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. The requests for confidential treatment filed by MidAmerican Energy Company on March 1 and September 1, 2016, are granted.
2. The information shall be held confidential by the Utilities Board subject to the provisions of 199 IAC 1.9(8)(b)(3).

UTILITIES BOARD

/s/ Geri D. Huser

/s/ Elizabeth S. Jacobs

ATTEST:

/s/ Trisha M. Quijano
Executive Secretary, Designee

/s/ Nick Wagner

Dated at Des Moines, Iowa, this 7th day of December 2016.